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Devan

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IMPORTANT POTENTIAL SPOILER NOTE! If you have not yet played the 2003 Winter Fantasy trilogy, "Forces of Cularin," this article may contain spoilers for certain plot events that occurred in that trilogy. If you're concerned about spoiling an element of the plot, don't read any further!

Jedi Master Devan For'deschel was the first individual from outside Cularin to set foot on any of the system's planets after the unfortunate events involving the Sith artifact known only as the darkstaff. Known to some of Cularin's citizens, who encountered her when she was a newly raised Jedi Knight on Coruscant (in the Living Force event "Coruscani Dawn"), Master Devan had been one of a number of Jedi researching the occurrences around Cularin and trying to make sense of the absence of the system. It was not her only responsibility during those years -- in fact, it was only the most recent -- and she denies having had much to do with the breakthrough that ultimately allowed Cularin to return to contact with the remainder of the galaxy. She was an outsider who came to deliver a great deal of unsettling news with calm and poise, but her presence was welcome, and her continued efforts to assist Cularin in a challenging time of rebuilding trade alliances and re-forging diplomatic ties have made her almost, if not quite, a citizen of the system.

As the bulk of Cularin's Jedi Masters were sent to fight in the Clone Wars, Master Devan remained behind to aid in the transition and to assist Masters Lanius and Kirlocca in overseeing the training of Almas's many Padawans. With the loss of Kirlocca, Almas went from two "full-time" Jedi Masters plus Devan to only Master Lanius. Devan had assumed that her time on Almas would be limited, but recently she received a communication from the Jedi Council. That communication contained, among other things, her appointment as the new Mistress of Lightsabers at the Almas Academy, until such time as another suitable replacement for Master Kirlocca could be found. Her experience with the system and her role in its already-strange history made her, in many ways, the only logical choice.

Master Devan's style with a lightsaber is much different from Kirlocca's. Where Kirlocca used his Wookiee strength to his advantage and pressed his offense whenever possible, Devan teaches a much more defensive form of lightsaber fighting. She is a master of the lightsaber form known as Djem So?, sometimes referred to as "Form V". She teaches that rushing the attack is the quickest way to fail, and that the enemy will often give you all the weaponry you need to defeat him. While Master Kirlocca did not claim mastery of any specific form, most in the Order who knew him credit him as having mastered

Shii-Cho, Form I, though elements of multiple forms seemed to flow through his personal style.

(Important game-mechanic note: Upon release of the upcoming Hero's Guide for the Star Wars Roleplaying Game, the only lightsaber form feats that will be available by default in Living Force will be those corresponding to Form I [for heroes who only trained under Master Kirlocca, or during Kirlocca's time at the academy, or who trained under both Masters and chose Form I as their preferred style] and Form V [for those who trained only under Master Devan, or under both Master Devan and Master Kirlocca and chose Form V as their preferred style]. Training for other forms may be made available through in-game opportunities.)

Of her personal history, little is known. Master Devan is human, apparently in her early thirties, and often described with words like "tall" and "striking." Most of her training on Coruscant was under the watchful eye of Master Mace Windu, though his commitments to the Jedi Council made her training somewhat nonstandard (to the extent that there is a "standard" training regime for a Jedi Knight). In order to better understand Master Devan as an individual, we have collected a number of quotations from her. Out of context though they may be, the quotations offer insight into the mind of this extraordinary Jedi Master.

On the Role of the Jedi

Master Windu taught me that we are protectors, not soldiers. Right now, in our galaxy, there is little difference. Soldiers serve as protectors for what they believe to be right. That is what many Jedi are doing now. Even I -- who have found myself in the position of training many who may serve the dual role of protector-soldier -- have begun to see the distinction Master Windu taught for so long begin to break down. We Jedi must do everything in our power to protect the Republic. If that means going to war, then we go to war.

On Cularin

This system contains some of the most beautiful places and people ever. It's like a pocket of the galaxy that exists on its own terms. The people here are, by and large, good. Strong and proud, too. It makes sense that strength and pride would grow in a place where so much of the dark side once lurked, and perhaps continues to lurk. Because for all its beauty, I think Cularin may also be one of the most dangerous places I've ever lived. So many followers of the dark side, and such dark side energy... The Clone Wars haven't touched here. Yet. But something has.

On Master Lanius

A kind and brave man. Thoroughly committed to training Jedi. Do I agree with all of his methods? I'm not sure if they're for me to agree with. They're different than what I'm used to, but then, this is a different place than Coruscant. He and I have discussed curriculum issues since I arrived, and while I understand his choices, we may make some modifications. Just to bring things a little more tightly into line with how they're done on Coruscant. But I can see why every decision was made, and I can't fault him for any of them. Besides, the results speak for themselves. Jedi trained on Cularin have

already made major contributions to the war effort and are well regarded throughout the galaxy. Even Cularin's Padawans have distinguished themselves when on assignment outside their home system.

On Her Role as a Jedi Master

I hadn't planned to become a Master. It was simply the most logical path that opened after my Padawan training was complete. I suppose I've got a few traits that the Council values, since there was a time when I felt as though I was being encouraged along that route. Maybe I still am, but after Geonosis, my skills were needed elsewhere. Including Cularin. The Council may still be in my future, but I'm not concerned about it. I'm pleased with where I am, and I know that I'm doing what is needed for the Jedi to assist in putting down the armies of the Separatists.

As to being a "Master," I will admit that the term has always unnerved me. I am not a "Master" of anything. I learn and grow every day. Claiming mastery would, to me, be equivalent to claiming that I had nothing more to learn, when that is clearly not the case. Most important, though, is my own certainty that I have not "mastered" the Force. The Force is not something any individual can master. It is part of us. We can learn to harness it, to shape it, to control some small part of it - - but mastery? No. Not even Master Yoda would claim that. The only ones who might claim mastery of the Force are those who would abuse it. And, if you ask me, they haven't even mastered the most basic thing in the galaxy - - themselves.